

A pleasant new Ballad of Tobias : wherin is shewed the wonderfull things
which chanced to him in his youth; and how he wedded a young Damzell that had had
seven husbands and never enjoyed their company; who were
all slaine by a wicked spirit.



In Ninive old Toby dwelt,
an aged man and blind was he.
And much affliction he had felt,
which brought him unto poverty.
He had by Anna his true wife,
one onely sonne and she no more,
which was the comfort of his life,
and he by him did let great store.
He brought him up most vertuously,
in true obedience and awe,
And every day he did apply,
to feare the Lord and keepe his Law.
Upon a time it came to passe,
he call'd to him his sonne with speed,
And thus to him his words did frame,
my sonne, quoth he thou knowest my need.
Thou must unto Gabael goe,
at Ragnels in Media land,
For I did lend him long agoe,
ten talents on his only hand.
My father deare Tobias said,
at your command straight will I goe.
How shall I get the money paid,
saying the man I did never know?
Take here the writing then, quoth he,
which is sufficient being seene,
And get a guide to goe with thee,
with thou that way hast never beene.
A Gude Tobias sonne had got,
an Angell in the shape of man,
which thing he did not know; God wot,
the Lord did so appoint it then.
Tobias with his blessed guide,
went on his journey then with speed:
Untill they came to Tigris side,
at that faire flood they did abide.

Tobias would wash him there,
by reason of the summer's heat,
A mighty fish put him in feare,
which leapt out of the waters great.
Cut up the fish, the Angell said,
but keepe the Liver, Heart, and Gall,
To doe the same he not afraid,
great cures there shall be done withall.
When this was done, away they went,
and coming nere their journey's end,
Whe'll lodge to night the Angell said,
with Ragnel thy fathers friend.
He hath a daughter faire of face,
and also of a vertuous life,
And when we come into that place,
He speake that she may be thy wife.
With Azarias, then quoth he,
so Toby did the Angell call,
I wis she is no mate for me,
swift death both to her Lovers fall.
Seven men have to her married been,
which in her lobe did take delight,
When her bed-chamber they have seen,
they have not lidd out halfe the night.
A wicked spirit loves her so,
he will not suffer any man,
With her into the bed to goe,
but woyles his: eath do what he can.
The Angell said, god courage take,
for so it shall not be with thee,
For such perfumes I will thee make,
the wicked spirit away shall see.
To Ragnels house a way they came,
where Sara met them faire and bright,
And after salutations done,
he brought him to her Parents sight.

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The second part, to the same tune.



Great chere they made & doane they sat,
and all for young Tobias sake;
And after long and pleasant chat,
betwixt these two a match they made.
By Moses Law they married were,
the Brides chamber prepar'd likestille:
When young Tobias came in there,
the teares fell doane from Sara's eyes.
A pan of coales he brought with him,
the fishes heart and liver there
Within that fire did he cast in,
which cast a labour every where.
And by that sweet and precious smell,
the wicked spirit was displac't,
Within that room he could not dwell,
where out away he went in hast.
In bed they laid the beauteous Bride,
the chamber doze they shut therefore,
young Toby lay doane by her side;
whom he did thinke to see no more.
And therefore Raguel in the night
for him before had made a grave;
And to his wife he wept, and said,
there is no meanes his life to save.
One of the maidens send, quoth he,
to see how all the matter stands:
If it be so that dead he be,
he shall be buried by my hands.
The maiden to full newes did bring,
Tobias is a live, quoth she,
When Raguel heard of this thing,
he did reioyce exceedingly.
For so he made a solemn feast,
the Bridall soueraine dayes he kept,
thereto came many a friendly guest:
in sojourn no more they kept.

When Azarias went straight way,
and to the feast Gabael brought,
Reioyng at this marriage day,
did pay the mone which he ought.
But yet old Toby and his wife
did all the time in sojourn dwell,
They thought their sonne had lost his life,
and nothing could their griefe expell.
His aged mother every day
did watch along the high way side,
And for his welfare oft did pray,
no meat nor drinke she could abide.
But when the wedding ended was,
young Toby with his lovely Bride,
To Ninivy did home ward passe,
with goods and cattell on each side.
But Toby and the Angell bright,
before his wife made haste to go,
For to prepare all things aright
his lovely Bride to welcome sho.
His mother watching in the way,
sall some elpy'd her tender sonne,
Reioyng at the happy day,
she told her husband he was come.
Whereat old Toby stumbled o't,
for he was blind, and could not see:
Young Toby with the fishes Gall
rub'd both his eyes immediatly.
Whereat the whitenesse of his eyes
incontinent did fall out quite,
so that before he did arise,
he had againe his perfect sight.
Great joy was then on every side,
young Toby told his father all:
Who went to meet his lovely Bride,
with joy and mirth that was not small.